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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service

OIL BASE FOR INSECTICIDE SPRAYS IN TOBACCO WAREHOUSES

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Recommendations are frequently requested for a type of oil to be used in the pyrethrum and other sprays applied in tobacco warehouses. Specifications for a type of oil that appears to be satisfactory, on the basis of past experience and observations, are therefore presented here.

The specifications set the limits that appear to be advisable. Within the indicated ranges of properties, however, certain factors should be considered for best performance. In the distillation range, for example, it is best not to have too high a percentage of the oil fractions in the upper limits.

The heavier fractions tend to cause an objectionable greasy deposit. The minimum flashpoint is set at 140° F. (Tag closed cup), although a product in the range of 160-170° F. would be more desirable.

The unsulfonated residue of an oil is usually considered in connection with plant injury. It is, however, also an indication of the degree of refinement. It is therefore included in the specifications to aid in obtaining a product lacking potentially objectionable characteristics. For example, odor is a highly important factor, and the tobacco industry is extremely careful to avoid any trace of kerosene or residual oil odor.

These specifications will be useful to tobacco companies, pest control operators, and insecticide formulators in purchasing the base oil for tobacco warehouse sprays. Some firms have had experience with specific oils that they have already found to be suitable. Because of the variation within products that will fall within the limitations of even these specifications, it is suggested that those who do not have experience in using the oils should make tests on a small scale before using an unknown or new oil for application to tobacco in a warehouse. This is to determine that there will be no objectionable greasy deposit, residual odor, or adverse effect on the flavor of the tobacco.

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Specifications

Specific gravity at 60° F.	0.77 - 0.80
Flashpoint (Tag closed cup), °F.	140 minimum, 160-170 preferable
Initial boiling point, °F.	370 minimum
Distillation end point, ° F.	490 maximum
Unsulfonated residue	97% minimum
Color	Water white
Odor	Neutral, no kerosene or naphtha odor, no residual odor



